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## WASHINGTON, D. C. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1858.

TO OUR VOLUNTARY AGENTS.

Many of our friends assured us that, on the or ening of the spring, or towards March, they would be able to renew their efforts for sub scribers, with better hope of success. May we remind them of this? Has not the time nearly come? New subscribers will just be in time to begin with the opening of the proceedings on the Lecompton bill.

### THE ERA FOUR MONTHS FOR FIFTY CENTS.

We have not heretofore encouraged subscriptions to the Era for less than a year, but the state of political affairs which for the next few months promises to be of peculiar interest to every friend of Freedom, and the hope of greatly enlarging the Era's circle of readers. that the people may be prepared to vote understandingly at the approaching fall elections, for the men who are to represent them in the next Congress, induce us to offer the Era on the Ten copies for four months, beginning March

1st, five dollars in advance. This will afford an opportunity to our friends to give the Era a wide circulation, and also enable those subscribers who have been com-

pelled to discontinue their subscriptions on account of the "hard times," to continue at a small advance of money. We accompany this offer with the expression of our earnest hope that, where it is practica

ble, subscriptions will be sent in for a year.

PERSONAL CONTROVERSIES .- During week, the letter-writers have been able to en liven their correspondence with accounts of sev

Mr. Cullom, Clerk of the last House, and Mr. Clay, member of the present, had some words at Brown's Hotel, came to blows, exchanged cards, met at Bladensburg, shot at each other once, and, Mr. Cullom being wounded severely in the arm, both were satisfied. Both they and their seconds have committed a penitentiary offence, according to the laws of the Dis trict. So rans the report. We do not wouch

Col. Sumner, feeling himself aggrieved by something that had transpired in his intercourse with General Harvey, sent him a challenge. It is stated that the General declined on account of considerations connected with his rank, and laid the correspondence before the War Department. Both have since left the city, but one, it is said, has gone to the North, the other, to the South.

Lieutenant Rhind, of the navy, challenged Commodoro Boutwell, and, receiving a refusal, posted him as a coward; whereupon he was arrested, and held to bail to keep the peace. Lieutepants Williams and Bell had a fight at Willard's, were separated; a challenge

passed, and was not accepted; further we know Beside these interesting events, there been several pugilistic exhibition

One might suppose that the President, in the present belligerent state of things, might have He would find any number of bidders

## TUESDAY IN CONGRESS

In the Senate, the resolutions of the Legislature of Tennessee, instructing Senator Bell to vote for the Lecompton Constitution, were prean elequent speech in defence of his course in the Senate. His colleague, Senator Johnson, replied to him at some length. Mr. Bell claimed to know as much of the sentiments of the People of his State, as did the men who passed the resolution instructing him how to vote, and he announced his purpose to disregard those instructions. It was a bold and spirited speech.

In the House, the consideration of Mr. Hoard's resolution was postponed till Wednesday, and the Indian appropriation bill was taken up, the House resolving itself into the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. Mr. Morris, of Illinois, an Anti-Lecompton Democrat, made an excellent speech against the Lecompton movement, and exposed its eminently disastrons consequences to the Democratic party.

# POST OFFICE ROBBERY.

The case of the young man, who was arrested in this city a few weeks for the robbery of letters in the City Post Office, in which he was employed as a clerk, is quite suggestive.

He belongs, it is said, to a highly-respec family in Virginia, where, we suppose, he might have lived creditably to himself and his parents, had he been trained to a respectable trade or profession. His clerkship here exposed him to seductive associations; he became a frequenter of the gambling hells upon the Avenue, a gentleman of fashion and extravagance. Such a life required more money than he could earn : but money he must have. Piles of letters lay before him, and he had learned to distinguish those of value. He laid hands from time to time on such as he pleased, purloined the conthought prudent, resigned, trusting that he had escaped all danger of detection. But, the pursners were on his track-he was suddenly arrested, the crime was fastened upon him, and he confessed his guilt.

What followed? He was held to bail in the sum of \$6,000, and is now at large. Nobody supposes that he will ever appear for trial. His bail will be forfeited in all probability, and we doubt whether any vigorous measures will be taken to collect the money on his bail bond. Meantime, the robbery goes unpunished-and those who have been robbed must make up thier minds to no redress. The Government, in its administration of the Post Office, is practically lenient to rogues, and reckless of the in terests of honest men. Our own loss by this robbery we have already ascertained to be over four hundred dollars, but, should the \$6,000 amount of bail forfeited, be collected, we shall not be a whit better off; nobody who has lost by the robbery will receive a cent of it. The whole amount, we suppose, will go to the Government. The Government lets the criminal off, makes money by the operation, and the only loser is the citizen who has trusted his interests to its keeping. During our career as an editor. we have lost, by post office robberies, that is through the criminality of persons employed by the Federal Government, some thousands o dollars; in many cases, the robbers have been detected, sometimes let off on bail, sometime committed and incarcerated, but in no case have we been so fortunate as to receive a single dollar. Our experience is but that of other pub lishers and business men. How wisely and

We have received a copy of a sermon Rev. Geo. W. Bassett, pastor of the Congregational Church in Washington. It is published by request, and is an able exposition of the author preaches regularly in gational Church in this city.

beneficently the Law provides for the protection

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC MEN.

As an editor, in the habit of using consider able freedom of speech, we shall hardly be suspected of a willingness to concede a single right of the Press. Public men are public property; their acts and words are legitimate subjects of comment and criticism. The Press can do much to increase or diminish their influencemuch to strengthen or weaken their position in the confidence of the People. It overlooks at times its own power in these respects. It may not consider how much mischief may be done by a hasty report, a thoughtless imputation, an

When a hostile press assails a statesman, no body is surprised-we are on our guard, and are quick to detect the prejudice or party feeling which dictates and colors the attack. But, when a man is wounded in the house of his friends, the impression goes abroad that an offence which can constrain Friendship to strike the blow, must be indeed a grievous one.

The truth is, Human Nature is apt to be in tolerant, and Human Nature has a good deal to do with the issues of the Press. Is it not true, also, that the masses of the People are more ready to believe evil than good of their public men? It may be, because they have been so often deceived, or because they have been trained in the doctrine of total depravity: but, whatever the cause, confidence is a plant of slow growth, and, when grown, so frail, as to be easily blighted.

The Republican Press, especially that of New York, seems to watch the conduct of Republican leaders in Congress with a jealousy so extreme as almost to exclude a generous confi dence. It does not always await full and authentic reports of their doings, but should their words or votes, as announced hurriedly by the telegraph, seem not exactly right, it is quite possible that the next morning's leader may be a serious discourse on their lamentably wrong position. Men who are engaged in a great struggle for a great object, ought to be a ittle forbearing towards one another-watch over each other for good-tolerate opinions not at war with the Idea that combines them for a single purpose—overlook eccentricities of movement not incompatible with the achievement of this purpose—beware of exalting every point of difference into a question of overshadowing importance, raising issues calculated to divide and

We had occasion, more than a year ago, to indicate Mr. Hale against a severe, an unjustifiable assault, made by a Republican paper in New York, the editor of which now is better prepared to do justice to the devotion which that Senator has uniformly manifested to the rights of mankind, since he took his position on the Texas question in 1845. Gerrit Smith refused when in Congress to join in a struggle of endurance against a measure pressed by a majority, and the insufficient reasons he assigned for it, were made the subject of extended and severe comment by Republican papers, carried to such an extent as to raise doubt in some minds of his Anti-Slavery fidelity. What an absurdity! It was proper to dissent from his conduct, and expose the insufficiency of the plea on which it was justified, but why pursue him as if he had committed a grave error?

A short time ago, a miserable story about noney lent to Mr. Banks, told in such a way as to convey the impression that his action while Speaker in regard to the Tariff had been influpublican paper, which previously had shown no particular good will to that gentleman. There was not a particle of truth in it, as was subsequently shown, and it ought never to have apeared in a Republican paper.

And now, the next man assailed is William Post of New York have elaborate articles upon him, to say nothing of shorter paragraphs, which, without any such intention on their part, are impressing some minds with the idea that he has either fallen, or is about falling, like Daniel Webster. If we did not know him to be just what he has always been since he stood out from his Party in New York, as Governor of that State, stating and vindicating, in his correspondence with the Governor of Virginia, the Principles on which the Anti-Slavery movement rests; to stand just where he has always stood since that time, a supporter of those principles-we should infer from the newspaper comments upon him, that he had at last aposta tized and done work meet to be praised by the Pro Slavery Party. One says he has rencunced allegiance to the Republican Party; another, that he announces that the battle between Freedom and Slavery is over; another, that he is in favor of a permanent augmentation of the standing army; another, that he has given up Kansas, and so on. To show the effect of this

newspaper criticism, we quote the following: "William H. Seward, through his able defences of Freedom and the belief in his faith-fulness to the rights of the freemen of Kaneas, was elected Senator; and for no other reason obtained the true Democratic votes of New York, and without which he could not have been elected. My determination is, as far as my study of sixty years will enable me, with devoted watchfulness to promote the liberty of my country and true Democratic principles, but I advocated and supported him, notwithadvocated and supported him, not with standing his profusion in the application of public money by his votes; but W. H. Seward, having failed in his devotion to the freedom of Kansas, thereby the perpetuity of our liberties. will venture to say, of the State that sent him.

If I were in our State Senate, I should advocate to instruct him to vote against the increase of the army, as we have enough already, if the bayonets against Freedom were with drawn from Kansas. Webster, through his ambition, was slain; W. H. Seward for, what

ambition, was siain; w. H. Seward for, what I will not now say. As the honor of Massachusetts was tarnished by Daniel Webster, so is that of New York by W. H. Seward, men of (hardly) equalled talents in their several States. Woe to men of great talents with A DEMOCRAT. " P. S .- To the National Era."

Now, if our friend could have had something beside the telegraphic reports and newspaper been so hasty. Had he been in possession of the files of the Congressional Globe, containing an authentic report of all that Mr. Seward has said and done about the army bill, he would not have written the foregoing commu-

We rarely in the Era signalize or praise dividuals, whatever may be our opinion of hem. Panegyric is not to our taste, nor shall we indulge in it now. But, it is sheer folly to suppose that Mr. Seward has changed his charcter, his purposes, or his policy. He is just as true to the cause of Freedom to-day, as he has ever been. He does not advocate a pernanent increase of the standing army. He has not said that the battle between Freedom and Slavery is over. He has not renounced allegiance to the Republican Party. He has not given up to Kansas.

We assert all this, after having read the debates and proceedings of the Senate, and we doubt not every Senator knows that the statement is true. He holds that it is the duty of the Chief Executive to maintain the Federal authority in Utah by suppressing rebellion. So do we. He holds that the force ought to be so large as to show the Mormons that there is no hold what opinions you please, and a vocate hope of successful resistance, whereby bloodtext, (1 Kings, ii, 2,) "show thyself a man." shed might be prevented. So do we. He have agreed to do. But, a clerk under the Gov-

be dwarfed into insignificance. statesman, as a Senator from New I rk, in your manhood or your bread. serve to be called a Republican.

What he said about the battle being saded. eferred to the great struggle for equi brium the Senate. That he regarded as fready ought. The free States already have a najority of two in that body. Bring in Kan as and linnesota, even forcing the infernal I compfree. Such we understand to be his p sition.

them. As to Mr. Seward's theory of pilitics, or system of policy, as it affects the fi ancial fairs of the nation, we do not believ in it. Our theory, we presume, is precisely th coppoite, so that we shall not be accused of any bias in our attempt to correct the misappreh, isions of some in regard to his position.

In relation specially to the new real will do its duty, it can relieve Colonel Jol ison's ims to Mormon fanaticism, their blood i upon he head of James Buchanan! Look at t e tabular official statement of the army in Ka sas-2,500 men! What business have they here? What right has James Buchanan to kee, them there? If Colonel Johnson is in danger; whose fault is it? The fault of James Buc anan, who sent him out too late in the sease s, and would not spare him troops enough, aving eed of Federal bayonets to force upon the free nen of Kansas a hateful Constitution. Two housand soldiers despatched from Kai ias at the earliest opening of the season would fully relieve Colonel Johnson, and give him , mple force for all purposes. But, no! the Pr. sident must needs dragoon American citizens i Kansas into obedience to his will, and so asl : Congress to furnish him additional troops t send to Utah. Not a head should he have y our vote: but should evil come to the at 1y in Utah, from its weakness, he would deserve impeachment.

### CLERKSHIPS IN WASHINGTON.

With every new Congress, adventurers warm here in quest of clerkships. What there is in a Government clerkship so attractive, w cannot understand, unless it be little wo a and sure pay. As a general rule, no bra; s are needed-nothing but a tolerably fair pe mansix hours. For these high attributes, man may receive ten or fifteen hundred collars. This is something for a lazy man, witho t amoition; but what an occupation for or has any thought beyond the animal.

We presume every member of Cong ess beset with applicants from the "ruri disricts"-his precious constituents have severending claims upon him. Let but a p fitical ssociation be started here, and if there's any petty pay office attached to it, every n imber has his special candidate, whose claims are a least equal to anybody's.

People wonder sometimes that so m ny o the Standing Committees in Congress hould need clerks. It is not always the Com nittee that needs a clerk, but the constituent of friend of a member that needs a clerkship. The wants of the Public Service are someting as termined by the demands of Private Int. rest.

Not long since, a member from the West in roduced a bill proposing to equalize th Federal patronage in relation to clerkships, by apportioning it according to the Federal repreentation among the several States. This, Inliana should be entitled to furnish cle he bureaus in Washington, according to her Federal population, and so the other ltates. The great object was, to give all the Sta es an qual share. So every year, each Demicratic epresentative (supposing the Adminis ration to be Democratic) was to carry to the W, shington market so many of his dear constitu nts in his train to be initiated in the sublime nysteries of Government clerking; and, when a district chanced to send an opposition m mber, hen we suppose the orthodox were to hoose the requisite number from smong the t ithful, and send them on.

The general proposition met with far elieve, and, if we mistake not, it was re erred. t will be observed that the business of the dovernment is regarded simply as a mi ter of patronage. The trifling considerations e econmy, fitness, and efficiency, are left out of

Now, to parents in the States who has sons dispose of, we would say, keep them at some, and give them an honest trade or profess, on, in which they can earn an independent jving, produce something of value, and develor powers God has given them. Washingt in is a poor place for a young man of enterpris, just tarting in life. In any of the States or Territories, you have a wider and safer field fe your energies than you can find here. What to you want with a clerkship? It may yield in ten or fifteen hundred a year-what else ! have no chance of rising. A clerkship is not the road to political preferment, nor c'a you calculate on permanent employment. Every hange of Administration is full of peril o you, o that you can have no settled plans of life.

Nor can you find full and satisfactory caploynent for soul and body. In the disch rge of of your six hours' task, you have neithe . ideas nor a taste for them, and, in your vac sity of mind, and longing for excitement, shot d you escape the gaming table or drunkard's aloon. give special thanks to your Maker for a extraordinary deliverance.

Holding your appointment as a mitter o earty favor, that may at any moment by with frawn. The merchant employs you ecause he needs you, because you can render 'se service he requires. You are independe t-you give value for value-the tie between you is that, not of patronage, but interest. Y a may them too, provided you do faithfully a at you

discharged at the end of two years, or at the of influences growing out of Party. You are a county termination of the difficulty. Here w differ dependant, and as such have lost a part of your from him, and so do many of the Rep blican freedom. Eyes are watching you to see what made by a man, who had not been so prominent nators who are opposed to any incr ase of you read, ears, listening to hear what you say, and notive in a movement every stage of which the army whatsoever. We agree wit them tongues, ready to bear testimony against your has been marked by fraud or trickery, would Soil, was entirely made up of a spurious vote heartily. But, we ask the reader, that is loyalty to the Party. We have known clerks be accepted as unequivocal. But the opponents there in this difference of opinion, to m ke W. poor tellows—who, anxious to see the Era, did of the movement have no faith in Mr. Calhoun. Port William. When the polls closed there, H. Heward a traitor to the cause of F; edom, not dare to have it known that they were subwhile our fidelity passes unquestioned. It is scribers! You may not be required in all he require the depositions of all three? One his minor matter which has been exalt, I into cases to think exactly as your superiors, but if of them cannot be found—he has disappeared; so much consequence by the Press, that under you think differently, no matter how vital the the others may have left before his missive to rious votes were added. All these facts having its towering magnitude all the services ander subject, no matter though it involve the high. Governor Denver shall reach Kansas. "Under ed by Mr. Seward to the cause of Freed m are est moral considerations, you must suppress such bircumstances as will secure a free and Badger was ejected from the seat, and Elliot your thoughts, and, while free men are taking unbilised exhibition of facts" - but of these As to his renunciation of allegiance to the sides, where to be passive may be a crime, you Republican Party, it amounts to just the: As are compelled to be passive. You must sacrifice

etermining how he shall discharge his luties. Let the People keep their sons at home recognises his allegiance to God; ad his Washington is no place for young men of talcountry, not to any party. And we say 'hat is ent and energy, unless they come here in the right. If he did not so act, he would not de- discharge of the duties of the honorable and productive callings to which they have been then shall we be satisfied. dedicated.

#### THE BEGINNING

The supporters of the Lecompton Constitution, backed by Executive influence, are determined and reckless. The business in which ton fraud through Congress, and still the equi- they are engaged requires despatch, and they vet the majority. But, whatever disposi on the of fair play or parliamentary law. The Comadministration may be able to make of the mittee on the resolution of Mr. Harris, enjoin-Lecompton Constitution, Kansas is in itably ing a full inquiry into the circumstances at tending the formation and adoption of Calhoun's All this, however, he regards not as th battle Constitution, ought to have been so constituted of Freedom, but as preliminary and suber finate. as to be able to carry out faithfully the will of We need hardly say, that we write fr m our the House; but Mr. Orr, the Speaker, gave the wn prompting alone. It is not well to mpair | majority to those members opposed to a full e influence of men true to the great it erests investigation-in other words, assumed the reof Freedom, and with large powers to p amote sponsisility of defeating the express will of the House. He might, with as much propriety, interpose a diret veto upon its vote, and refuse to form any committee at all.

The Committee of Inquiry has done nothing and, we presume, will do nothing; for a major ity of its members, under the lead of Mr. Ste phens of Georgia, has thus far arrested every project of the minority for a fair examination manded for the Utah rebellion, we wo id not The scheme is, to have the bill reported by Mr vote a man to aid the Administration. If it Green in the Senate, hurried through that body sent to the House, and put through there, by ommand without any action by Congre s. If such appliances as carried the Kansas-Nebrasks it fail to do it, and American soldiers t il vic- bill, without the slightest reference to anything that may be done by the Committee of In-

The same rude and reckless disregard of appearances characterizes the Lecomptonites in the Senate. It was the understanding that the Committee on Territories should report on the subject last Monday, Mr. Douglas, the Chairman, having been delayed in the performance of his duties, by severe domestic affliction. But, the majority of the committee reconsidered the matter, determined to hasten their report, and notified Judge Douglas Wednesday of last week that they would bring it in the next morning. A correspondent of the Tribune says-" The whole scheme was concocted with some adroitness, and included in its programme a one-sided statement from Calhoun, which has not even yet been seen by the minority." Mr. Douglas, not to be forestalled, as seemed to be the purpose of the majority, set to work at once, and, by writing till three o'clock Thursday morning, got his report ready, while Mesers. Collamer and Wade, who had received no notification of the change of time, were ready, nevertheless, and all the reports came in at once. So the majority made nothing by their indecent haste.

We cannot find room for these documents The report of the majority occupies a whole page of the Washington Union, and is a dull resume of what we have heard the land the of Judge Douglas occupies more than a page the New York Tribune, is written with his characteristic force and clearness, but the ma terial points will doubtless be reproduced in the speech which he proposes to make when the discussion shall have begun, and which we shall lay before our readers. The report of Mesers Collamer and Wade is concise, and to the point, reaching the same practical conclusion as that of Judge Douglas, although by a some what different route.

The report of Green, or the majority of the Committee, ventures no opinion as to the power of the People to alter their Constitution immediately after the admission of Kansas as a State. and the bill reported provides for its admission under the Lecompton Constitution, without any qualification. It is given out, however, on 'the highest authority," that, when the subject shall come up, an amendment will be offered from the Administration side, expressly declaring that "nothing in the Lecompton Constitution shall be construed or held to interfere with the right of the People to alter, amend, or modify, it at pleasure." On this amendment and on the effect of Mr. Calhoun's announcement that he intends to govern himself by the depo sitions of the Judges of Election at the Delaaware Crossing-a pledge which, it is hoped, will satisfy some Douglas Democrats that the Free State Party is to have the majority of the Legislature if Kansas be admitted-the Administration probably relies for securing the passage of the bill.

The debate, it is supposed, will open this week: when it shall close, will depend pretty much on the convenience of the Opposition party in the Senate.

# STATEMENT BY MR. CALHOUN.

The statement by Mr. Calboun concerning the election in Kansas, published a few days since in the Union, we reprint in the Era, with certain explanatory comments by the Intelligencer. We suppose that it is designed, in part, to win over to the Administration the more credulous and less determined members of the Douglas section, and also to allay the growing disgust in the Democratic Party at the North. One thing should be carefully noticed: Mr. Calhoun makes not the slightest allusion to the election of State officers. Whether that election turns upon the number of votes at the Delaware Crossing precinct, or upon other returns which he, as the sole judge, reserves for his own consideration, he does not inform us. His statement bears upon the party complexion of the Legislature alone. He received and opened a return, which he says he believed to be a true one, giving 349 votes at the Delaware Crossing precinct for the "Democratic ticket," as he styles it, and this secured a "Democratic" (Pro-Slavery) majority on joint ballot in the Legislature. But the judges your duties, you act as a machine; at the end of the election at that precinct have sworn that only forty-three votes were given there. If this be true, the Free State Party has the majority in the Legislature. The necessary papers, proving it to be true, were forwarded to Washington, and now Mr. Calhoun says:

"If the judges of election at that precine fore leaving Kansas, a reliable and sworn statement that but forty-three votes were polled there, I should make myself a party to the fraud if I declined to be governed by the fall f I declined to be governed by the oaths of the

He adds, subsequently:

"I have written to Governor Denver to pro-cure the sworn statements of the judges of this controverted precinct, and to have them taken under such circumstances as will secure a free and unbiased exhibition of facts. By the sworn

or regulars, which, however, he insists it ast be the Government needs you, but on the strength bers of the Legislature from Leavenworth of the Territorial Legislature, to fill a vacancy

Under ordinary circumstances, such pledges "The Judges of the election," he says - will it was found that the ninety-nine votes cast, been proven before the legislative committee, circumstances, who is to be the judge? Gov. Denier may be satisfied, but Mr. Calhoun i still re sole judge. Why will not the depositions of the Judges, as already taken, and au. then cated by Governor Denver, suffice? For one, when the certificates shall have been issued to a Free State majority, then, and only

#### LYNCH LAW IN KENTUCKY.

We have just received a letter from John G. Fee, of Madison county, Kentucky, dated the 12th inst., giving an account of a gross act of violence committed on himself and a colporteur, Mr. lones, not long since, by a mob of armed librium is not restored—the free State, have are not to be restrained by the ordinary rules men. Mr. Fee, while preaching, was dragged from the pulpit, he and his companion, Mr. Jones, were carried about two miles away, Mr. Joney was stripped, and beaten, and threats were used to force from Mr. Fee a pledge never to return to that neighborhood. He refused to give any such pledge, bravely maintained his right to preach the gospel wherever he pleased and they were at last set at liberty. Both are citizens of the State, native-born Kentuckians. The whole account we shall give in our next.

#### POLITICAL SUMMARY

T e people of Col. Orr's district, met a fer days since, at Craytonville, S. C., and passed resotations endorsing his course in Congress and expressing regret at his determination to retire from public life at the end of the pres-

The Democrats of the Iowa Legislature, in augus, have passed the following resolutions. The, are a substitute for the Republican resolutions which have passed the Iowa Legisla.

" Resolved by the General Assembly of the Start of Iowa, That we regard the refusal of the becompton Convention to submit the Constitution framed by them to the people of Kansas is unwise and unfortunate for the peace of that Territory, and we hereby declare that every Constitution of a new State, unless otherwise declared by the people themselves, ought to be submitted to the bona fide electors of such Territory, for their approval or reject

"Resolved, That our Senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our Representatives in that body requested, to vote against the admis-sion of Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton Constitution, unless said Consti shall receive a majority of all the votes cast for and against it, after a full and free submis-sion of said Constitution to the people of said

Ter-itory.
"Resolved, That we rely upon the enlightene pat-lotism and sagacious statesmanship of the President of the United States, to administer e Government in conformity with these prin

What will Senator Jones say to such resolu iors, written and approved unanimously by the Democrats of the Iowa Legislature?

The Providence Post, a strong advocate he Lecompton Constitution in an article of nform the country who are the successful can lidutes elected on the 4th of January. The Post believes that nothing short of fraudust such fraud as that exposed by Walker in ohnson and McGee counties-can secure a con rmation of the election of the Pro Slavery can idates, and insists "that the people should be assured by Mr. Calboun himself that such a

fraud is not to be countenanced." Many of the Lecompton presses are calling apon John Calhoun to decide upon the election returns in his hands, and issue certificates to tije Free State or Pro-Slavery claimants. A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican

"The returns of the election had to be made to General Calhoun, and he invited the Presiden of the Council and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to be present at the opening of the returns. They attended, and her published the success of the Free State

"Fren. C. published nothing, but very soon those claiming to be his friends published the election of the Democratic ticket, and ever since we have had it first one way and then the ther, without hearing anything from Gen. Callioun; and he has left for Washington, without making the result public.

"All this is seized upon by designing men of

the Free State party, and paraded about as evidence of trickery and fraud, and many of the Democrats are dissatisfied, and think the matter ought to have been made public. "Honest men of all parties want a fair game play, d, and don't like too much secrecy and mys ery about political matters. I very much regret that the General did not publish the re-

lice him and us." A great anti-Lecompton demonstration nad in New York, last Thursday evening. A grea crowd repaired to the Chinese Assembly Rooms, and the Hon. George Bancroft took the chai. The following named gentlemen were, with their consent, made Vice Presidents: George Douglass; William F. Havemeyer; John Emeu; Edward C. West; James A. Mc-Massirs, editor of the Freeman's Journal: A. C. Fragg; Oliver De Forest Grant; George B.

De Forest; Emanuel G. Massaras, editor of

Cousier des Etats Unis; William Harny;

Malcolm Graham; J. Ottenderfer, editor of the Staats Zeitung; Aaron R. Thompson; Hugh McCutcheon; Robert G. Dunn. Secretaries-A. M. Pell, George B. Butler, Will am Gale, jr. M. Bancroft made a short opening addre and ex-Secretary Stanton followed in a long and the speech, one hundred thousand copies of which have been published, and are already n the hands of the people of the country. The meeting adopted a strong set of resolutions condomnatory of the Lecompton Constitution.

interest certain gentlemen this way: " Mesolved, That our best thanks are due to Thomas L. Harris, of Illinois, and the major-ty of the House of Representatives, especial-y including the true-hearted John B. Haskin, who, as the grand inquest of the nation, have give, the country the hope of a thorough in-vestigation of all affairs relating to the Le-com son Constitution, and the frauds connected

We topy two of the resolutions, which may

tives of this city of New York, Horace F. Clarx, John Cochrane, John Kelley, William B. Kaclay, Daniel E. Sickles, and Elijah Ward, are tereby requested to oppose the Lecompton Constitution, as required by the principles of popular sovereignty, by the Cincinnati plat-form, by the instructions of President Buchanan to Governor Walker, by the authorized promsas, by the fuffdamental principle of Democracy and by the desire of the great majority of the voters of this city."

A case of election fraud occ holds that to secure such a force it is necessary to raise additional regiments, either volunteers to raise additional regiments, so procured, I shall be governed in Atchison and Kanawha Company ask to be absolved from the payment of the S6,000,000 which it owns held for a member of the lower house owes the Commonwealth.

A case of election fraid occurred in Atchison and Kanawha Company ask to be absolved from the payment of the S6,000,000 which it owns held for a member of the lower house owes the Commonwealth.

But the control of the S6,000,000 will be difficult to again separate them. Refy courty, Kanasa, recently, where a special election fraid occurred in Atchison and University of Science (Courted in Atchison and University of Scie

caused by the resignation of the original incumbent. A Democrat, named Badger, was re turned as elected. On investigation, it was ascertained that his majority over Elliott. Free returned as having been cast at a place called mostly by Missourians and minors, were still insufficient to elect Badger, so forty-three spu-

declared the lawful incumbent. The N. Y. Freeman's Journal, a Catholic and Democatic journal, is very severe upon the Administration for its course upon Kansas. It

"What is the practical difference between the 'Royal Prerogative' claimed by the weak and tyrannical Stuarts, and the Executive influence so impudently flaunted in our faces by the advocates of the fraudulent Constitution of the Lecomptonites? The only difference is, that this 'Executive influence' is viler in its nature, more demoralizing, and more potent than the 'Royal Prerogative' which lives in the execration of free men. We have been told day by day, by the servants and the seekers of the Government pelf, that some ten millions of dollars of 'patronage' are to be employed in buying the votes or the absence of a sufficien number of the representatives of the people, to secure the passage of an act deadly to the in-terests of the country and to the fundamental principles of our institutions."

The Hon. T. S. Anderson is an American nember of Congress from Missouri. He goes with the Administration in Kansas matters, and is loudly condemned by his constituents for his conduct. Nearly all the Missouri American prints are out upon him. The Lagrange Amer ican, published in the honorable member's district, says :

"We know not of a single American in this district that endorses or approves of the Le compton swindle. If there are any, we desire them to make themselves known through our columns—they are open to them for the discussion of the question. As for ourself, we are ready to discuss the question in all its bear-

Mr. Anderson has not been authorized speak for the American party in this State, and commit it in favor of a tyrannical Locofoco Administration. We disclaim anything of the kind, and ask it as a favor of the Washington American, that it will copy this article entire and set the American party of Missouri right before the country, on this question."

The Hon. Mr. Lovejoy, of Illinois, delivered n able Anti-Slavery speech in the House, last week. He was listened to with much attention, not only by Republicans, but by the Southern members of the House.

### WASHINGTON ITEMS.

The select committee of fifteen, to whom was ferred the President's late message and accompanying documents, held their second meetng on Wednesday last, when Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, submitted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That, in order to comply with the order of the House under which this committee was organized, which required that we should inquire into all the facts connected with the ormation of the said Lecompton Constitution and the laws under which the same was origin ated, and also whether the same is acceptab ciples.

"Resolved, That the Secretary of State be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress."

and satisfactory to a majority of the legal voters of Kansas, the chairman be authorized to have summoned to appear before the committee the following-named persons, viz: Gov. Robert J. Walker, Gen. John Calboun, Hon. F. P. Stan-Walker, Gen. John Calboun, Hon. F. F. Stanton, and John D. Henderson, to testify to all such facts as they have knowledge of, and to produce all such documents, papers, votes, and returns, as have any relation to the election of delegates to the Lecompton Constitutional Convention, or to any election subsequently

The vote upon the resolution was postpone for one week. Mr. Adrain submitted a resolu tion directing an inquiry into the recent census of Kansas, which was tabled. Another, investi gating the apportionment of delegates to the Lecompton Convention, was carried. Anoth er, inquiring into the legality of the election of the said delegates, was tabled, with two others directing an examination into the election held under the Lecompton Convention, and the number of votes cast for and against. So the investigation ordered by the House has so far

Senator Pugh, of Ohio, writes to the New York Herald the subjoined letter:

SIR: In the letter of your Washington correspondent, published yesterday, I find this par agraph:
"The Democratic members of the Ohio Leg islature have written to Senator Pugh, with drawing all instructions as to how he shall vot on the Kansas question."

Justice to the Democratic members of th Ohio Legislature, as well as to myself, requires that I should contradict the statement here made. I have not received any letter "withdrawing" the instructions to which your corres-

pondent refers.

My own opinion is, that Kausas ought to be admitted immediately upon the Lecompton Constitution, with a declaration of the right of amendment, as therein prescribed, at any time.

The bill which I introduced on the 4th of January was to that effect. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

The Richmond inauguration of Crawford's statue of Washington, on Monday, was attend ed by a large concourse of people from al parts of the Union. Senator Hunter delivered an eloquent and able oration upon the occasion The last English news is of some importance

The Leviathan is affect at last. In Parlia ment, Mr. Roebuck had made a severe attack upon Louis Napoleon, which was replied to by Lord Palmerston. The Democrats in the Legislature of Ohio

propose to enact a set of "Black Laws" only second the Illinois code. They impose a heavy fine upon every colored man who comes into Ohio, and still further upon every person who employs such immigrants. Is this code a specimen of the Democracy of Ohio? An immense Anti-Lecompton meeting was

held in Columbus, Ohio, on the 20th instant Resolutions were unanimously passed, endorsing Cox and Douglas.

Dr. Foote, editor of the Buffalo Commercial Idvertiser, died in that city last Saturday.

Judge Kane, of Pennsylvania, died on Sur day evening last, at his Philadelphia residence The Pacific Hotel, at St. Louis, burned

o the ground on Saturday last. Several per-

sons were burned to death, and others injured.

A new arrangement of the States of the Max

ican Republic has taken place, under the new Constitution. There are now 25 provinces, embracing 854,662 equare miles of territory, embracing 804,002 equare miles of territory, and having an aggregate population of 7,853,395. The several capital towns have an aggregate of 693,000 inhasitants, giving 170,000 to the city of Mexico, 71,000 to Puebla, 63,000 to Guadalaxara, 49,000 to Guanaxuato, 40,000 to Merida, &c. The northern tier of provinces, from New Leon to Lower California, have 354,000

square miles, and 825,000 people, a little over two to the square mile. It appears that, by bills already reported in the Virginia House of Delegates, the sum of \$5,864,400 is asked for works of internal im-provement; besides which, the James River KANSAS NEWS.

The proceedings of the Investigating Com-"On the 4th instant, two of the judges of the

election at the Delaware Crossing precinct again appeared before the commissioners, and testified that the returns found in the famous box, purporting to have been made out by them, are a forgery. The certificates to these returns are genuine, but are attached to three nundred and seventy-nine names instead of orty-three, which the judges have shown to be the whole vote polled at the election held on the 4th of January. The forty-first name on the genuine list is now represented as the two hundred and forty-first. On the genuine pollbook there was one column of names, whereas on the spurious returns there are two columns and the figures are on the opposite side of the names to which they were on the original. The names are fictitious, with the certificate of the judges cut off from the genuine returns and pasted upon them. Diefendorf, the brother in-law of Calhoun, testified before the commis-sioners that these returns were handed to him by Henderson in precisely this shape. The census-takers appointed by the Legislature return thirty-three legal voters at Delaware crossing, and fourteen of these are Free State

"Complaint was made on the 3d instant, before Judge Miller, by Joseph L. Spear, Esq., of Lawrence, and Dr. J. W. Robinson, of Manhattan, against John Calhoun, as the basis of a requisition from Gov. Denver to Mr. Buchanan or the immediate return of Mr. Calhoun to this Perritory. Gov. Denver refused to sign the requisition. He said it would be better to have these taken before the grand jury, and if it these taken before the grand jury, and if it the Kansas question, has caused a unity of freeling amount all classes of man which ed the returns sent to him, or put in fraudulent ones, he would then sign a requisition upon the President for the accused. The Free State men President for the accused. The Calhoun guilty claim that they can prove Mr. Calhoun guilty of changing returns and making out fraudulent ones. Warrants have been issued for Hender son, McLean, and others, who have escaped

from the Territory."

The frauds at Kickapoo are also being fully developed. We copy from the States the following, as amongst the most recent testimony

n relation to that precinct:
"Mr. Ewing, a son of the Hon. Thomas L.
Ewing, of Ohio, has testified before the investigating commissioners, at Lawrence, that he was at Kickapoo during the day of the election, and remained there until the polls were declar-ed closed; that he voted at that time with the express purpose of being able to detect the frauds, should any further ones be attempted; and that but two other votes were received after he voted. The returns now show that 443 ames were registered after Mr. Ewing voted. Of the 552 who voted in advance of him, several voted as many as six times under different names; but these did not make enough to carry the county without adding nearly half a thousand, and then it required 336 fraudulent votes at Delaware Crossing to give a majority for the Pro Slavery candidates.

"Mr. Currier, Chief Clerk of the House of

Representatives, corroborates the statement of Mr. Ewing in regard to several persons voting several times in succession at Kickapoo, and of Mr. Ewing, with himself, having voted just before the polls were closed; and yet upwards of four hundred names appear on the returns after hese gentlemen's names are recorded."

But the Delaware Crossing returns (says the Kansas Herald) seemed the most important, as on these depended the whole question. Counting all the other frauds as legal, the returns from this district (provided those which have been sent in since the counting were not ncluded) changed the entire result in both pranches of the Legislature, as well as the entire State ticket. Rejecting these retures, then eavenworth county would elect her eight Free state Representatives and five Senators. The evidence of two of the judges of the election own unaided efforts, (except so far as the Secressablished that but forty three votes were poiled tary assisted us, and which we fully appreciate,) at the election on the 4th ultimo; but here | we procured the passage of a law whereby we was prima facie evidence that all was fair at that poll. An examination of it showed where the certificate to the returns was cut off, apparently with a pair of scissors, and upwards of three hundred names were added in a different handwriting, to which the certificate was again attached. With the disclosures which are now public in regard to those returns, even Calhoun dare not take them into consider ation in making up his final decision.'

The Constitutional Convention bill passe both branches of the Legislature, February 8. The election is to be held on the second Tuesday in March, and the Convention will meet at

The subjoined official expose of the Oxford raud is published in the Kansas Journals.

LAWRENCE, February 8, 1858. The undersigned was appointed by the Ter ritorial Legislature one of the commissioners to take the census of all the white male inhabitants over twenty-one years of age in the townships of Oxford and Shawnee, in the county of Johnson, and, having discharged that duty, has reported to the Governor as follows:

Whole number of inhabitants over twenty one years of age in Oxford, 42; of which only ourteen dated their residence prior to April 5 Whole number of inhabitants over twenty

one years of age in Shawnee, 115; of which only forty-eight date their residence prior t April 5, 1857. The vote returned from Oxford township a ne January election was about 750.

The vote returned from Shawnee townshi

CHARLES MAYO, Commissioner.

the January election was 894.

principles of Republicanism.

The Topeka Legislature assembled on the 18th inst., when concurrent resolutions were introduced, setting forth that, as the President advocates the passage through Congress of the ecompton Constitution, Gov. Robinson be equested to correspond with the Governors of states friendly to the people's Government in Kansas, soliciting aid in case it should be neessary to resist such encroachments upon the

The election at Atchison county on the 8th for a member of the Council, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Carr. Democratic Congressman, resulted in the choice of Challiss (Democrat) over Wheeler (Free State) by 250 majority. On the 4th of January, the ame county gave over 100 Free State major-

Republican says that on the night of the 6th, party, headed by Charles Lenhard, burnt the ffice of Mr. Boyd, lawyer, and Mr. Davis, physician, and destroyed all their property. Messrs. Boyd, Davis, Kelly, Laughlin, Lynch, and nany others, had fled to Missouri. Much excitement existed. The committee of investigation into the

ection frauds had discharged Diefendorf. Report says that Governor Denver has issued requisition upon the Governors of three

tates for the person of Henderson. The Legislature adjourned on the lovernor Denver had failed to approve of the Constitutional Convention bill.

Parties arrived from there say that mer were moving about in the vicinity of Fort Scott, out no fights were reported.

The N. Y. Herald's special Kansas corres ondent says :

"The Pro-Slavery party, who, by the way, do not acknowledge that name, but call themselves the Democratic party, are very much
annoyed at this exhuming of the returns from
under a wood-pile. Some of them 'pitch into'
McLean pretty strongly. Yesterday, while
travelling through the country, I fell in, some
ten miles from here, with a number of the rank
and file of the Per Slavery party: they were and file of the Pro-Slavery party; they were greatly incensed and excited at what they called the action of their leading men; they were opposed to the recent election frauds, to all election frauds, and said if they could not get up a public Democratic mass meeting, and pass a vote of censure upon such frauds, and upon the course of some of their leaders, they would leave the party, though there is no other party in Kansas with which they would or could affi-

St. Louis, Feb. 18 .- The Kickapoo corre pondent of the Republican reports that a party, led by Charles Leukart, had burned the offices of Lawyer Boyd and Dr. Davis, at that place

who, with others, had fled to Missouri. Mr Diffendorff had been discharged by the com mittee of investigation.

The Legislature has adjourned.

The Constitutional Convention bill had

been approved by the Governor. Armed bodies were reported in the vicini of Fort Scott, but there had been no fighting St. Louis, Feb. 19.—The Kansas correspond ent of the Democrat says that the Topeka Lag islature reassembled on the 10th. Concurren resolutions were introduced, setting forth that, as the President advocates the passage through Congress of the Lecompton Constitution, Gov. Robinson be requested to correspond with the Governors of the States friendly to the people's

### AFFAIRS IN KANSAS.

Government in Kansas, and soliciting aid in

case it should be necessary to resist such en-

croachments upon the principles of republi

LAWRENCE, Feb. 10, 1858. To the Editor of the National Era; I scarcely expected, last week, when I wrote

you, that anything would so soon occur as to make it justifiable for me to trouble you with another letter. But the news of the Lecompton Constitution

having reached Congress in due form, and the President's message urging that the people of Kansas be at once admitted into the Union tling the Kansas question, has caused a unity of feeling amongst all classes of men, which has not hitherto existed. All with one voice unher itatingly declare that, if we are admitted under that instrument, it being officered by the Pro-Slavery men, those unscrupulous aspirants will at once be elevated to a higher position than they have sought. The people protest against being admitted

ander the odious thing, even with the power to kill it at once; but, if that power be taken from us, the next best thing seems to be to kill the men who have conspired against our liberties. The President thinks "it will give peace! that "the soldiery can then be withdrawn from

Kansas," and "we can settle our difficulties in cor our own way." Well, if the United States forces are withdrawn, we can settle our difficulties in our own way; and that way will be a very summary one. There has been, and still is, a conservative wing in the Free State party; but the idea of a conservative element always presupposes that

there is something worth conserving. Let the Administration beware, lest all that is worth laboring to save be taken from us. The people of Kansas have borne long and much; but heretofore they have not been desperate. Hope has not entirely gone out. If this last great anchor be torn from us, and we let go all else, there will still remain the noble spirit that could de fiantly cry in the ears of the British King, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" Under ordinary circumstances, the people of Kausas would not feel themselves justified it disturbing the peace and quiet of the Territory

from the simple fact that men who did not fair ly represent the majority of the people are placed at the head of the Government; but the circumstances in which we should be placed were we to be admitted under the Lecompton Constitution, would be most extraordinary.

First, we had no voice in framing the Censti tution; second, we are not permitted to approve or disapprove of the imstrument, when it was claimed to have been submitted; third, by our

not only the provisions of the instrument, bu cipiency to its final consummation. Our dissent was expressed by an overwhelm

ing majority.

Fourthly and lastly, lest our vote against the Constitution should not be heeded by Congress, we elected the State officers and members of the Legislature, with but a portion of cur strength. Certificates were refused us, and we have instituted an investigating committee

who are now in possession of facts that would satisfy any court on earth that our claim to the government is beyond a question.

The men claiming the right to govern us, by virtue of certificates which it is understood will be issued to them by John Calhoun, are not men simply without character, but they are guilty of crimes which justly exclude them from all decent society, and they have conse-quently fied the Territory, are fugitives from ustice, and have become the companions and confidents of their allies in Washington. They are guilty of frauds, forgeries, and perjuries, so palpable, and conspiracies so vile, as to redeem the damned. There is not a man in the Terri tory that pretends to justify or apologize for them in the least. Sheriff Jones said to McLean, when he applied to him as to what he should do, "Take the straightest road to Missouri." When he (McLean) applied to Colonel Young, of Lecompton, asking what he should do after the discovery of the returns under the wood-pile, the Colonel said, "Go and tell the court

you swore to a G-d-d-d lie." McLean, it is said, plead for the Colonel's counsel, but the The ultra men in Kansas will seize upon this effort of the President to force it into the Union under the Lecompton Constitution as a manifest disregard of the popular will.

The advocates of the Kansas-Nebraska bill

laimed that the people should be left perfectly free to manage their affairs in their own way But if the President's Kansas policy, as under stood here, is a correct exposition of the doc trine of "non-intervention," then I have only to say that the people here are opposed to not While the people of Kansas were generally

opposed to the repeal of the Missouri Compro mise, they would still be satisfied with the pro visions of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, if fairly carried out. But a measure which never secured the assent of their judgment can never win their confidence by attempting to carry it into effect by force, by fraud, and by violence I am still, however, not without hope. As I said to you in my last, it does seem that when all the recent developments reach Congress in due form, they will produce the same effect there that they have in Kansas.

On Friday of this week, the Territorial Legislature will close its session. The Topeka Legislature was to have reassembled to-day.

One of its prominent members is writing in the room with me, and I have just asked him if they had a quorum together. He replies, "Upon my word, I had not before thought of the matter." How many others have forgotten that this was the day for their reassembling, I Am not able to say.

P. S.—A bill has passed the Legislature providing for a Constitutional Conven

egates to be elected on the second Tuesday in

March. Session in April, and election of offi-cers in May, I believe. The Convention will be composed of one hundred members. On Saturday of this week, a mass Convention will be held in this place. The Territory is very generally represented by members of the several Legislatures. A very great deal of interest will be felt with reference to the character of the delegates elected to the Constitutions

This will be the third effort made to frame a Constitution that shall prove acceptable to the people. Some are in favor of readopting the Topeka Constitution. I do not think this will meet with general favor. Should the measure be carried, it will be by the same means that are resorted to to push certain Administration measures through Congress. Po-sition, salary, and pride, are the capital stock in the Topeka movement. The Legislature will probably send on a messenger with the principal facts which the investigating commit-tee have developed. Probably Mr. Adams, or Mr. Ewing, will be that messenger. Mr. Ewing, so long as the Free State party refused to go into the elections, refused to have any participancy with them; and, accordingly, he was unknown in Kansas until recently. He is, how ever, one of the most able, efficient, and liberal young men. The element of a strong par are here. They are mingling together, and